



**Jeff Sessions**  
UNITED STATES SENATOR • ALABAMA

**FAX**

TO:

*CBP*

OFFICE:

*Congressional Liaison*

FAX NO:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PHONE:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

DATE:

*11-3-2014*

PAGES (including this cover sheet):

*5*

NOTE:

☐ D.C. OFFICE

335 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0104  
Phone: (202) 224-4124  
Fax: (202) 224-3149

☐ BIRMINGHAM

341 Vance Federal Building  
1800 Fifth Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203-2171  
Phone: (205) 731-1500  
Fax: (205) 731-0221

☐ HUNTSVILLE OFFICE

AmSouth Center, Suite 802  
200 Clinton Avenue, N.W.  
Huntsville, AL 35801-4932  
Phone: (256) 533-0979  
Fax: (256) 533-0745

☒ MOBILE OFFICE

Colonial Bank Centre, Suite 2300-A  
41 West I-65 Service Road North  
Mobile, AL 36608-1201  
Phone: (251) 414-3083  
Fax: (251) 414-5845

☐ MONTGOMERY OFFICE

550 Halcyon Summit Drive  
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Montgomery, AL 36117  
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Fax: (334) 244-7091

JEFF SESSIONS  
ALABAMA

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET  
Ranking Member  
JUDICIARY  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

November 3, 2014

Mr. Michael Yeager  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
United States Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Yeager:

I am enclosing correspondence that I received from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Products. We would appreciate any effort to assist Mr. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated so that I may respond to my constituent's inquiry.

Thank you for your assistance. Please respond to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in my Mobile Office at the following address:

Office of Senator Jeff Sessions  
41 West I-65 Service Road North, Suite 2300-A  
Mobile, Alabama 36608-1291  
251-414-3083

Very truly yours,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator

JS: st

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MONTGOMERY, AL 36117  
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WIREGRASS  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, SUITE 302  
100 WEST TROY STREET  
DOTHAN, AL 36603  
(334) 792-624

NOV-3-2014 14:03 FROM:UNIQUE FIRE STOP

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

TO:4145845

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# Unique Fire Stop Products

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

## FAX COVER SHEET

DATE 11 - 3 - 2014RECEIVING FAX # ( 251 ) 414 - 5845Fax To: Sen. Sessions, Mobile OfficeAttention: mrs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: improper seizure by CustomsTOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 3COMMENTS: I would hope that youcan help. I have been intimidated tothe point of exasperation. This is Notwhat you have in mind to bring smallbusiness to the Port of Mobile.This has been a month long Nightmare.  
mde

NOV-3-2014 14:04 FROM:UNIQUE FIRE STOP

2519605061

TO:4145845

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## Privacy Act Release

Date 11-3-2014

Social Security No. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Claim No.

SRC/A No.

Dear Senator Sessions: Mrs. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I request your assistance in resolving the problem I am having with (agency)

*Customs has seized my product. Please HELP!*

Give highlights, necessary dates and locations. Use second sheet if needed.

*See attached Doc. titled "HELP"*

In keeping with the restrictions of the privacy act, you are authorized to request any information required to assist me.

Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Address:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Home Phone: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Work Phone: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Signature:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



NOV-3-2014 14:04 FROM:UNIQUE FIRE STOP

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

TO:4145845

P.3/3

# Unique Fire Stop Products

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date: 11/03/2014

To: The Honorable Jeffery Sessions

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Our property incorrectly coded and seized at Port of Mobile Customs.

UNIQUE FIRE STOP invented, patented, UL tested, built a facility in Robertsdale, AL. to produce and bring to market our mechanical sleeve systems to protect life and property. Our products that have been compliant with UL standards and guidelines for over 20 years with no problems. We have multiple products and multiple listings and are the only FIRESTOP manufacturer in the state. This is our first time to try to import parts and pieces to be assembled here at our plant in Robertsdale, AL.

We had planned to inspect the parts, insert the required putty, doc/warn labels and assembly instructions. At that point it became a UL system and would be sold to cable installers nationwide. [www.uniquefirestop.com](http://www.uniquefirestop.com) click on the Smooth Firestop system to see, <https://www.uniquefirestop.com/sp.html> Our Smooth Firestop device is our #1 seller over the years and until the competition had circumvented our patents and flooded the market with clone sleeves, we were doing well enough to pay the bills. We have always made these sleeves in house except for several years ago we bought some sleeves through a Chicago Distributor, Garvin Industries imported from the same Chinese maker. It was several thousand sleeves and we sold them all. During the process of selling them we were inspected by UL at least 8 times with no issues and no tariffs or duties.

As this problem of "dumping" unfolded, I began to study the HS Code manual and saw nothing even resembling our unique parts so my customs broker just picked one labeling us as "Stainless Steel threaded fittings" and it has a dumping duty. We are not any of that. So when our product was seized and inspected, the customs agent reclassified it as "pipe". It is not pipe, it is components of an unfinished product.

I was told we were going to fall under the dumping laws and would be fined 60% of the value of the product. They then proceeded to go to my website and calculate value at the list price of a finished system even though what they had was an unfinished incomplete bag of parts. So now the shipment is valued at \$250,000. Sixty % of that is \$150,000. The total I was invoiced including the unfinished product, shipping and cost of container was about \$72,000.

At this point I hired an attorney (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and he proceeded to get them the correct code # but they said they and only they could assign the code. Then we were slammed with a "tariff". The attorney again interceded and it was no longer a problem. But there was a new problem. Then there was the issue with the UL mark. We are allowed to apply the abbreviated mark on one of the parts for which I was told I had a variation due to lack of space on the device. Customs deemed it an "illegal mark" and again impounded the cargo. I had UL issue a letter stating it was OK to release the cargo "unconditionally" as it was not illegally marked.

So now they have re seized it again and are assessing duties for dumping. (\$244,000. was the latest assessment) They are also planning to send the container to the customs seizure yard in Florida soon. I am awaiting word on how much longer it can stay in Mobile.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CEO